

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8820

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8366

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PK

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON THE NEW CABINET

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 8328 (B) ISLAMABAD 6552 (C) ISLAMABAD 7585

(D) ISLAMABAD A-84 (E) LAHORE 1071 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA'S NEW CABINET IS CUT FROM THE SAME MOLD AS THE ONE IT REPLACED: CONSERVATIVE, BUSINESS-ORIENTED, AND WITH LITTLE MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL ZIA'S NEW CABINET, APPOINTED AUGUST 23 (REF A) IS CUT FROM THE SAME MOLD AS ITS PREDECESSOR (REF B). OF THE 24 MINISTERS, 12 ARE FROM SIND (NINE OF THESE KARACHI-ITES), SEVEN FROM PUNJAB, FOUR FROM THE NWFP, AND TWO FROM BALUCHISTAN. THERE ARE NINE NEW MINISTERS AMONG THE 24.

3. ZIA SHIFTED FEW PORTFOLIOS AMONG THE HOLDOVERS. CHAUDHRY ZAHUR ELAHI LOST THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL FLAP OVER HIS
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ENTHUSIASTIC ADVOCACY OF LOCAL BODIES ELECTIONS (REF B), AND A.K. BROHI GAVE UP RELIGIOUS AND MINORITY AFFAIRS PERHPAS DUE TO HIS RECENT ANTAGONIZING OF PAKISTAN'S CHRISTIAN MINORITY. GUL MOHAMMED JOGEZAI WAS THE ONLY CIVILIAN FULL MINISTER DROPPED FROM THE CABINET -- HIS BALUCHISTAN/PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML) SLOT WAS PRESUMABLY NEEDED TO MAKE ROOM FOR A BLAUCHI MEMBER OF JAMAAT-ULEMA-I-ISLAM (JUI).

4. NONE OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ARE NATIONALLY POLITICALLY PROMINENT, AND AS CONGEN LAHORE COMMENTS, THERE SEEM TO BE MORE THIRD-RANK POLITICOS THAN SECOND-STRINGERS. MOST OF THE NEW MEN HAVE SERVED IN THE PAST EITHER AS SENATORS OR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL OR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES. WHAT MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE EXISTS AMONG NEWCOMERS RESULTS FROM STINTS AS MINISTERS IN THE 1960'S GOVERNMENT OF WEST PAKISTAM.

5. THE NEW CABINET ALSO REFLECTS THE SOCIAL MAKEUP OF ITS PREDECESSOR. THERE IS NO MINISTER CONNECTED WITH THE LABOR MOVEMENT, NONE IDENTIFIED WITH THE RURAL PEASANTRY, AND NO WOMEN (BEGUM NOON HAVING LOST HER MINISTER OF STATE POSITION). THE CABINET REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THE LANDLORDS, BUSINESSMEN, TECHNOCRATS, AND CONSERVATIVE ISLAMICISTS.

6. WE WILL POUCH DETAILED BIO INFORMATION ON THE NEWCOMERS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

7. THIS CABLE WAS PREPARED WITH THE HELP OF USEFUL AND TIMELY SUBMISSIONS FROM CONGENS LAHORE AND KARACHI, AND CONSULATE PESHAWAR.
HUMMEL

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